# Author of "Jurgen" Defends Himself Against the Philistines

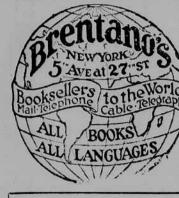
### The Judging of Jurgen. ing one of those vile makers of literature; indeed, I frightened him so that he hid amount to prove the makers of literature.

Great Tumblebug States His Case for the gusting trick to play on me, I con-Court of Philistia

By James Branch Cabell THEY of Poictesme narrate that held by the Philistines to decide whether or no King Jurgen should be relegated to limbo. And when the judges were prepared for which a description which there came into the court a lance, which I elect to declare is not "Nay, but these three," cried Jurgen should be relegated to limbo. And would be objectionable to me, and which there came into the court a which, therefore, I must decline to releast of, that to-day are honored wherejudging, there came into the court a | which, therefore, great tumblebug, rolling in front of him his loved and properly housed

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acY of Poictesme narrate that are lactivious, because you carry a more free from makers of I in the old days a court was lance, which I elect to declare is not than are the other countries."

reat tumblebug, rolling in front of the him his loved and properly housed young ones.

This insect looked at Jurgen, and its pincers rose erect in horror. And the pincers rose erect in horror. And the can see for yourselves that I have here pincers rose erect in horror. And the can see for yourselves that I have here bug cried to the three judges, "Now, a sword and a lance and a staff, and no by St. Anthony! this Jurgen must mention of anything else; and that all

because you carry a sword, which I other Philistines stood to this side and being well spoken of; no, no, my lad. choose to say is not a sword. You are to that side with their eyes shut tight whatever I may do means nothing and saying in unison, "We decline to to you, and once you are really rotten look, because to look might seem to you will find the tumblebug friendly imply a doubt of what the tumblebug enough. Meanwhile, I am paid to problebug has reasons which he declines and lewd and lascivious and indecent. to reveal, his reasons stay unanawer-able, and you are plainly a prurient Jurgen now looked more attentively rascal, who are making trouble for at this queer creature; and he saw that

am a poet and I make literature."

have been pestered by three of these so that there was nowhere any hope for makers of literature. Yes, there was this people. Edgar, whom I starved and hunted un-til I was tired of it; then I chased him himself to submit, as his need was, up a back alley one night and knocked to the strange customs of the Philisout those annoying brains of his. And tines. "Now do you judge me fairly," civious and indecent. Then, later, there long as in that place this tumblebug is was Mark, whom I frightened into not omnipotent and sincers and indisguising himself in a clown's suit, so that nobody might suspect him of be-

with gangrene, corpses assailed by

putrefaction, ghastly rows of skeletons

hanging on barbed-wire entanglements.

realism made more poignant by intense

Although it is held together by a

single thread of narrative, "The Judgment of Peace" is almost as episodic

as the collection of stories included in

Men in War." And with what terrible

trenches; the gentle poet, who is sent

brutal tyranny of the typical German "unteroffizier"—all these figures stand

out with clearcut and terrible vivid-

ness. It is doubtful if an American could have written such a book; its

despair, its unhesitating defeatism, its

utter lack of all national feeling or

patriotic spirit could only be born out

of years of weary fighting in an unjust cause. Latake flames with passionate

anger against the men whom he holds

responsible for Europe's holocaust of slaughter. His feeling bursts out in

the following characteristic passage:

"With superhuman force that great

anger broke forth again in Gadsky, that raging, sobbing and yet imper-

and feeling.

he hid away the greater part of what he had made until he was dead and I sider. Still, these are the only three detected makers of literature that have ever infested Philistia, thanks be to flewd, because you carry a staff, which goodness and my vigilance, but for I prefer to think is not a staff. You both of which we might have been no more free from makers of literature

least of, that to-day are honored wher-

bug cried to the three judges, Now, by St. Anthonyl this Jurgen must forthwith be relegated to limbo, for he is offensive and lewd and lascivious is offensive and lewd and lascivious is offensive. I have in charge the moral welfare of my young, whom i things by other names." "And how can that be?" says Jurgen.
The judges said nothing as yet. But God-fearing tumblebugs like me. For the rest, I have never minded dead men has said. Besides, so long as the tum-

> the tumblebug was malodorous cer-"To the contrary," says Jurgen, "I tainly, but at bottom honest and well meaning; and that seemed to Jurgen "But in Philistia to make literature the saddest thing he had found among and to make trouble for yourself are the Philistines. For the tumblebug synonyms," the tumblebug explained. was sincere in his insane doings and I know, for already we of Philistia all Philistia honored him sincerely

> there was Walt, whom I chivvied and cried Jurgen to his judges, "if there be battered from place to place and made any justice in this insane country. And paralytic out of him; and him, too, if there be none, do you relegate me labeled offensive and lewd and las- to limbo, or to any other place, so

#### An Epic of the War Trench Life Is Vividly Painted in Latzko's

NDREAS LATZKO and Henri sonal anger over a world that let such good-tempered about it. If posterity tempt to prevent others reading it who Barbusse are the two men who things be done, that lay abed and folhave described the war in works lowed its business while human faces of epic grandeur. Between the Hunwere obliterated with wooden clubs. garian and the Frenchman there are Oh, from whatever depth there was in many points of spiritual and intellectual contact. Both have served in the trenches; both paint their terrible pictures of carnage and destruction from nd taught children, whose fathers tion, demand their suppression. firsthand experience. Both pity and

admire the brave men driven to death words and thoughts concerning the text than that supplied by William is protected—if there were none of this at the front; both abhor the slackers glory and nobility of war." and war profiteers in the rear. Latzko and Barbusse have essentially the same great a book as "Men in War." Aside reaction to the savagery, the bestiality, from the element of repetition, which the unspeakable agonies, mental and inevitably weakens the appeal of a sector suppress vice. Personally, as a physical, which they associate with the ond book based upon the same subject libertarian, I incline to the view that trenches. Both men yearn, desperately as its predecessor, the novel does not every attempt to suppress only inand hopelessly at times, but passion- quite attain the terrific, concentrated creases its frenzy, for, as they say, and hopelessly at times, but passionately and deeply always, for a new 
birth of the spirit of human brotherhood strong enough to exorcise the 
spirit of hatred and the lust of slaughter forever from the hearts of men.

duite attain the terrific, concentrated 
intensity of the war epic. The author 
includes somewhat too much argumentative discussion of war and its causes 
and thereby somewhat retards the 
broad sweep and rapid movement of 
the property of the war epic. The author 
includes somewhat too much argumentative discussion of war and its causes 
and thereby somewhat retards the 
broad sweep and rapid movement of 
tinguish it from truth, otherwise they 
are apt to tamper not with the desay that the innocent are of all classes 
say that the innocent are of all classes say the say in the sale of the say of the war epic. The author includes somewhat too much argumen 
that those who believe in attempting to suppress vice should learn to distinguish it from truth, otherwise they 
are apt to tamper out with with the or say the say in the sale of the say of the s The parallel between Latzko and his action. But for all that Latzko's banches of the human mind, but with of persons the least in need of protect of the omnipotent and omniscient

"Light" much the same relation that tarism, their chauvinism. Surely the "Men in War" bore to "Under Fire." Allies are bound in honor not to allow Of the two men's art Latzko's is unthis great idealistic genius, whose writmistakably subtler and deeper. Bar- ings perhaps contributed as much as busse is a physical realist. Latzko is a psychological realist. Barbusse of the morale of the Gentral Empires, atresses the external horrors of the world conflict: men in hospitals rotting which he combated so resolutely.

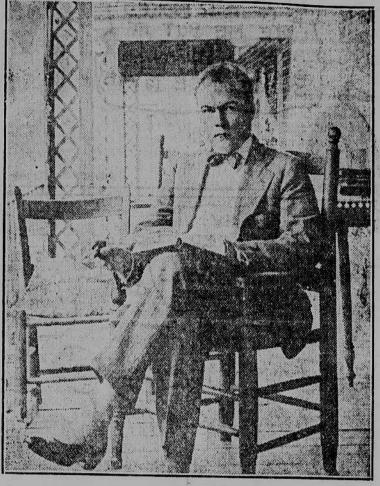
Declaring that political power cannot Latzko also depicts these horrors with through the suffrage be artificially to any but their own welfare. With the application of an intelligence vividness the author drives home the effects of war upon men of weak nerves test, which it pleases him to believe. would be sufficient to safeguard the and delicate minds! The poor little would be sumcient to caleguard the subject races from oppression, the ruling race would be released for legislation in the interest of the community as a whole. What this welfare of the community as a whole, thus disengaged from consideration of its several constituent classes, may be, the author neglects to discover to us, with much else that is nebulous. school teacher, accustomed to a placid, uneventful life, who breaks down and becomes a blubbering coward in the back to the rear a raving maniac after he has seen the terrible sights of the battlefield; the great planist, who com-mits suicide rather than return to the

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TAMES BRANCH CABELL, author of "Jurgen," who defends himself against attacks of critics.

#### The Rainbow' and 'Jurgen' Cannan Says Posterity May Take Books longing to commune with God"; "days Now Banned

By Gilbert Cannan 'Tis the voice of the sluggard I heard him complain, "You have waked me too soon,

James Branch Cabell, find themselves. fore, should leave well alone and not Humanity's chief trouble is inertia, and attempt the impossible. There is no broken. However, let us, above all, be every reason why he should not atthey are in advance of current morality, work of art rouses in the innumerable im boiled his avenging hatred against and those whose idiosyncrasy it is to indolent readers of the newspapers the Il those in all the world who hid such care for morals, to the exclusion of good always present hunger for prurience calities under the boom of false words sense and every other social considera- which there are, in all conscience,

Shakespeare in the line: "The Judgment of Peace" is not as "Love is all truth; lust is all forged terference-by the fact that it is a

forms of literary expression. "Men in War" and "Under Fire" are works fashioned out of the realistic stuff of war, unadorned by any attempt at factional linagination on the part of the authors. Like Barbusse's "Light," Latzko's new novel, "The Judgment of Peace" (published by Boni & Liveright, New York), is a work in which the war theme overwhelmingly predominates. The Judgment of Peace" bears to "The Judgment of Peace" bears to cheap the need increases withen edition the need increases wit pared with such novels books like their range. 'Jurgen" and "The Rainbow" seem to

sion and intelligence, which it has for imagery are always sound and rational so long ignored. It is thrown into and carry with them picturesque appanic and imagines that here is an at- peals unique in their breadth of vision tack upon society. But artists do not attack society; they leave that to the published by John Lane Company, New prophets and social reformers. The ar- York, is named, is an ebullient panypossible diagnosis of the trou- tist's loyalty is to art and that loyalty ble in which those singular is a thing that the layman cannot posbeings, D. H. Lawrence and sibly understand. The layman, therethose inconvenient persons who attempt earthly reason why he should read a to break it are frequently themselves book that offends him, but there is books enough to satisfy. A work of vers being disemboweled like beasts, In these matters there is no better art-like "Jurgen" or "The Rainbow"-

The parallel between Latzko and Barbusse is carried out even in their forms of literary expression. "Men in War" and "Under Fire" are works in literary and "Under Fire" are works in a memory of the forms of development. The parallel between Latzko and mission in the latzko and literary expression. "Men its means of expression, than which it tion, for their innocence has no clue Unknown who sways the destinies of has no other means of development. It is means of expression, than which it tion, for their innocence has no clue Unknown who sways the destinies of has no other means of development. It is means of expression, than which it tion, for their innocence has no clue Unknown who sways the destinies of has no other means of development. Humanity wants to know the facts All books to them are fairy tales, as in a newspaper on New Year's Day,

profound change, can no longer accept grotesque and puzzled visions f a the convention which deprived the young woman falling through a ceiling her soul with an amazing frankness.

Democracy Limited be startling and violent. The men who It may be said, on the other hand, wrote them have actually had the au- that young minds groping out of indacity to ignore the lassitude of the nocence must be protected. I never pity and burning indignation. But to him the supreme outrage of war is not ready possess it in fact, Mr. Samuel Pet. the superficial view of human relationthe crucifixion of the body, but the erson in "Democracy and Government," ships and have had the temerity to excrucifixion of the soul. It is in his published by Alfred A. Knopf, New plore them. Lawrence insists upon invariably supplied with the maximum description of the psychical sufferings York, states his to be a democracy of their intensity, Cabell upon their tran- of force whenever a public outcry is of his characters that he attains his democracy now is. But he would, by are reverent before the wonder and who in his exploration of the mystery denying them the vote, purge it of all mystery of their material. Unfortu- of human relationships states candidly those elements, including the negro, nately, the indolent modern mind, in and beautifully, passionately or witwhich, having no community of interest the sluggishness of its decadent Puri- tily, what he finds there. There is abwith the ruling race, are unable to tanism, sees none of the reverence and solutely no other result except that consider political issues with a view is aware only of what seems to it the timorous artists may be deterred from

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The case of "The Rainbow" is of the there was a morose, hard-boiled Cromwellian Puritan it is D. H. Lawrence, and for the Puritans to assail him is for them to show how little grasp they have of the logic of their own case. In "Jurgen," on the other hand, the Puritan may find his natural enemy, the aristocratic individual who does "not give a single damn," and then the Puritan is baffled, for no attack can impinge upon that individual's imperturbability. The matter is serious and worth writ-

ing about at length, because modern society is hectic and confused for lack of the authority which only art can give it. Indeed, these periodic assaults upon books which are a few years ahead of their time are perverted expressions of the need of that authority which is withheld by, among other things, this pathetic confusion of pornography and literature. There should be a rallying of writers everywhere to make it plain to the public that literature cannot possibly be pornographic, and that there is no simple fact of human nature that cannot find expression in art. A dirty book is, God save us! a thing of nought, It must perish of its own dreariness. A work of art is a thing of vital necessity and society tampers with it at its

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characters in a work of fiction of both or a coal hole or down a drain, and In a pathetic and plaintive jeremiad passion and intelligence in order that even when my brother explained at entitled "Why?" she asks herself why novels might be read as easily and indolently as the newspaper, until at last certainly no exciting meaning. And all dowed with all a woman's heavenly novels came to be written as easily and innocent persons are like that—they powers," must go childless and spend indolently as they were read. Comlavish her tenderness on the flowers.

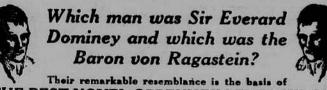
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